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VINCENTIAN SISTERS OF CHARITY

MAR 27 2000

Brigadier General Carl Strock
Department of the Army
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, Washington 99362-1876

March 22, 2000

Dear General Strock,

The rivers of the Pacific Northwest are home to spectacular and world renowned wild salmon and steelhead runs. The Columbia and Snake rivers are the lifeblood of this region and these fish. Human activities have devastated salmon runs on large sections of these rivers which is why I am writing to you, along with National Wildlife Federation and other conservation and fishery groups to help protect and restore salmon.

Four dams have been constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers on the lower portions of the Snake River that Don't Make Sense for the Fish or the People. Apparently, you have finally acknowledged the problem by drafting a management plan for protecting and restoring these fish. Draft scientific and economic reports indicate that partial dam removal is the option for the fish and for the Pacific Northwest economy. If we don't act now, all Snake River salmon are likely to go extinct within the next 20 years. I would like to see our future children and your grandchildren relish that special taste of a delicious grilled salmon as we are savoring now. We need salmon and those four dams don't make sense.

* Scientists urge that the best option to recover all species of salmon and steelhead on the Snake River is to remove those four dams.

* Salmon and steelhead in the Snake River are likely to be extinct by 2017 if we don't make the decision to remove these dams now.

* Restoring the salmon and the Snake River ecosystems will benefit the region economically.

* Saving the fish in the Pacific Northwest is important to me because I'll never forget how much I relished that first taste of a grilled salmon at my friends home. Let us keep the salmon flourishing for others in the future to enjoy.

* Removing the dams could be the first step in a nationwide effort to restore our natural treasures, rather than harming them.

* Mark Van Putten, President of National Wildlife gave me some of these pointers to write to you.

Sincerely,

Sr. Margaret S. Forgach

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